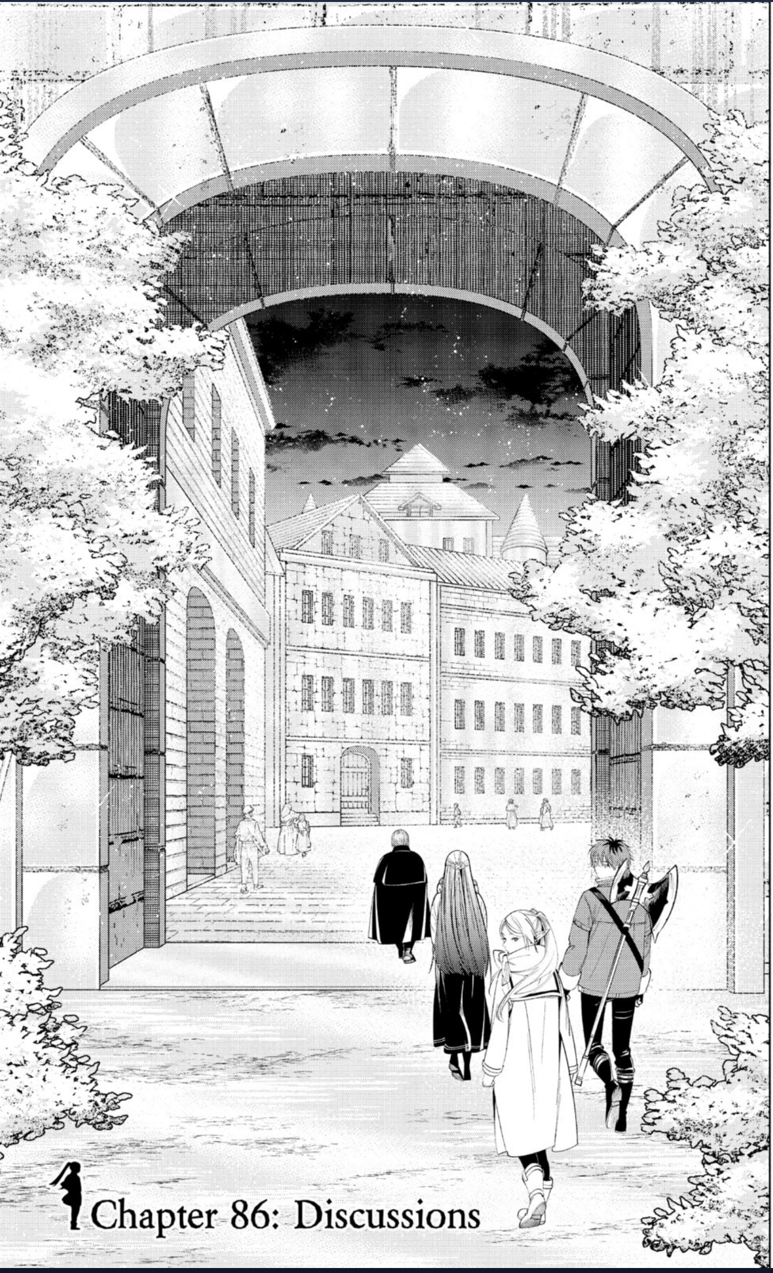
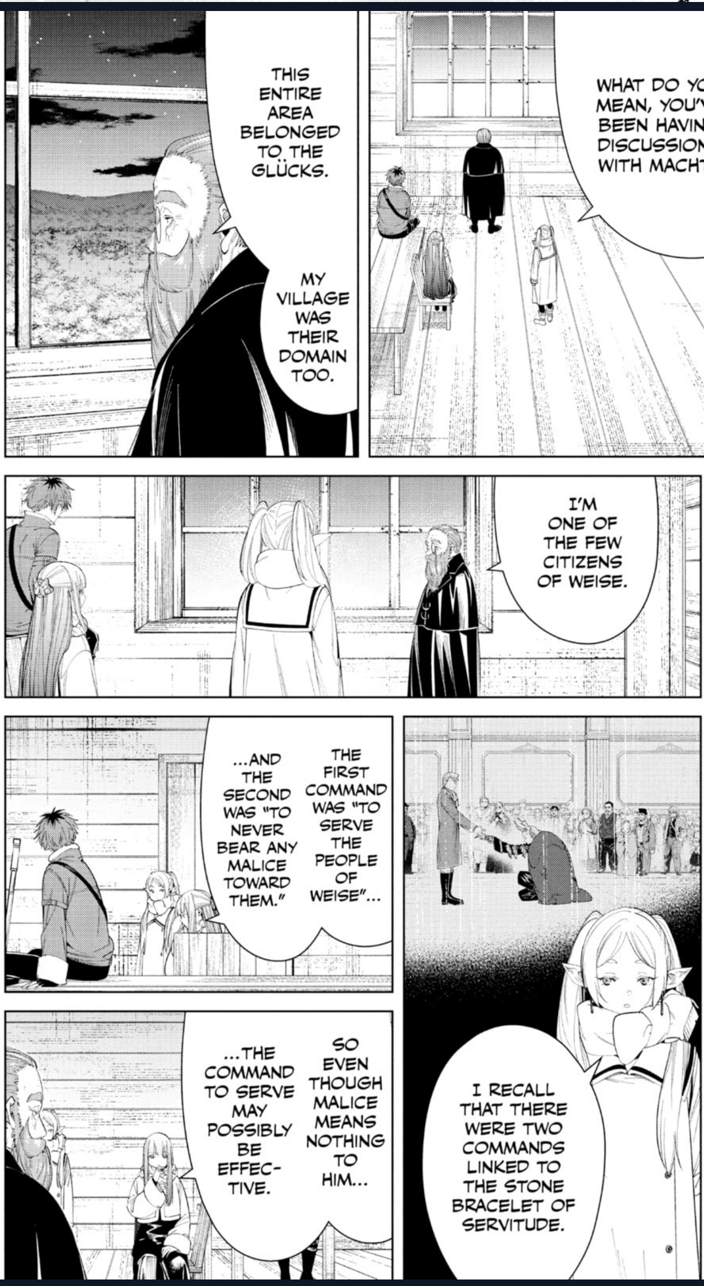
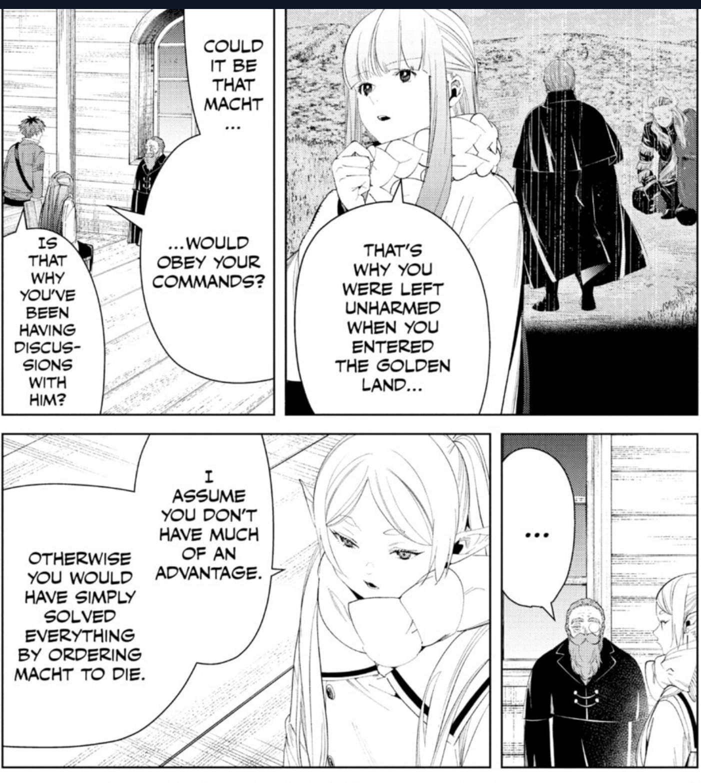
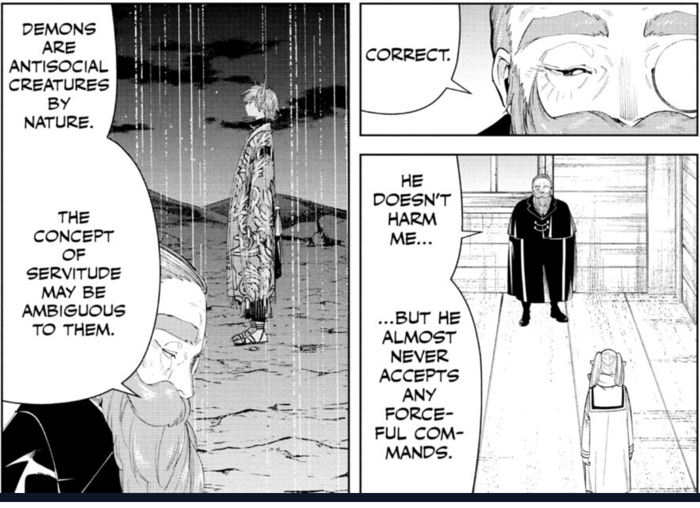
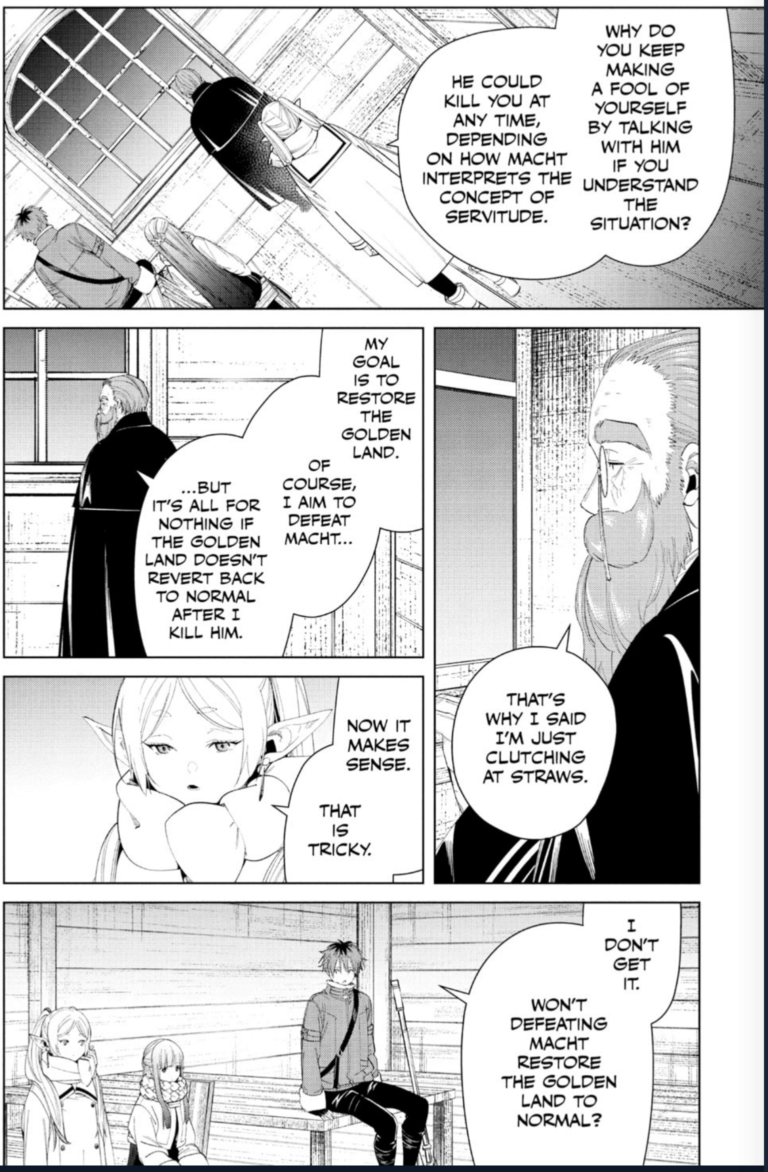


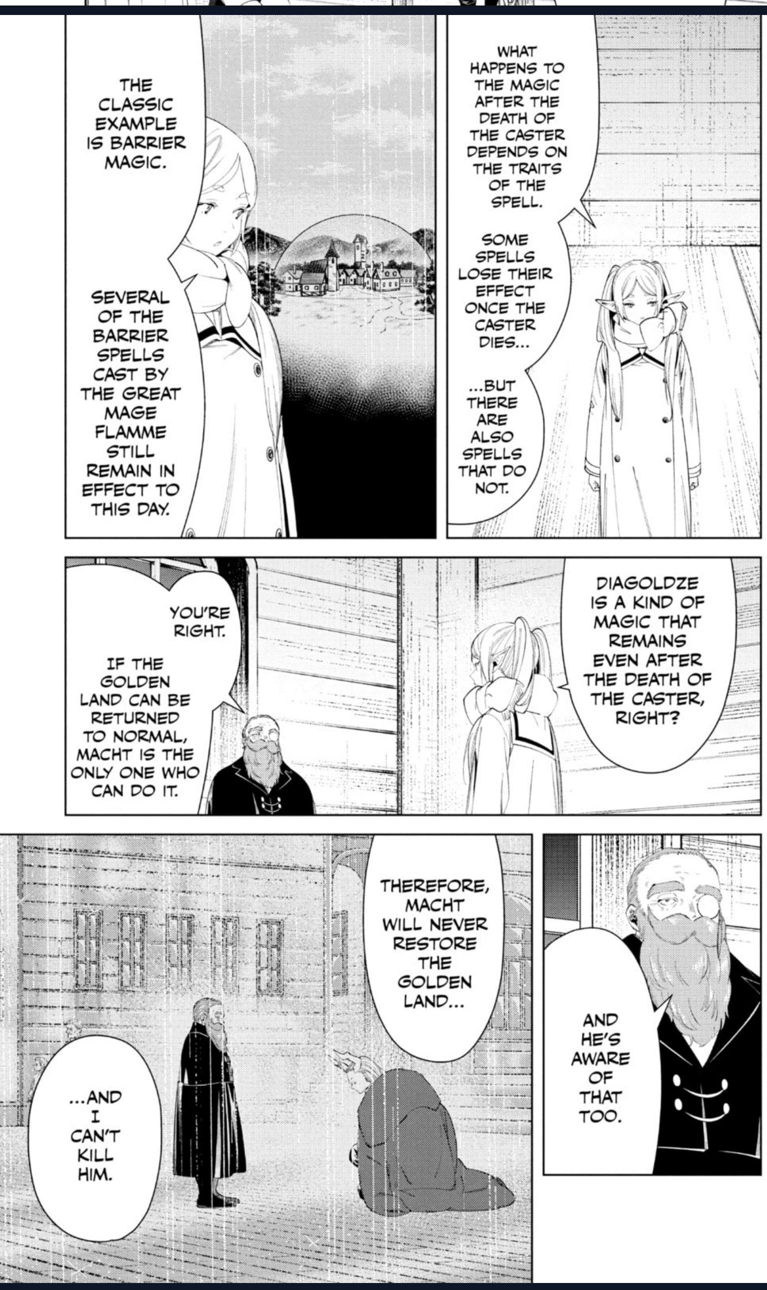
Chapter 86: Discussions

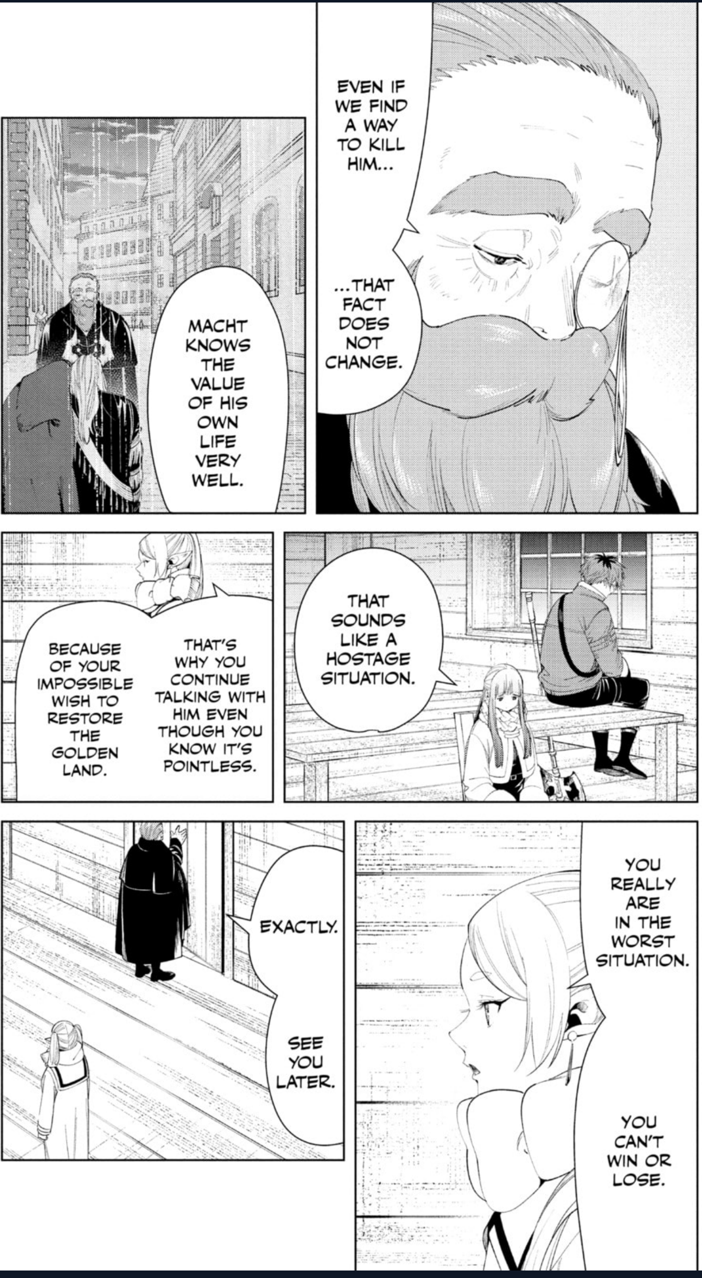

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'VE BEEN HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH MACHT?
THIS ENTIRE AREA BELONGED TO THE GLÜCKS.
MY VILLAGE WAS THEIR DOMAIN TOO.
I'M ONE OF THE FEW CITIZENS OF WEISE.
I RECALL THAT THERE WERE TWO COMMANDS LINKED TO THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE.
THE FIRST COMMAND WAS "TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF WEISE"...
...AND THE SECOND WAS "TO NEVER BEAR ANY MALICE TOWARD THEM."
SO EVEN THOUGH MALICE MEANS NOTHING TO HIM...
...THE COMMAND TO SERVE MAY POSSIBLY BE EFFECTIVE.

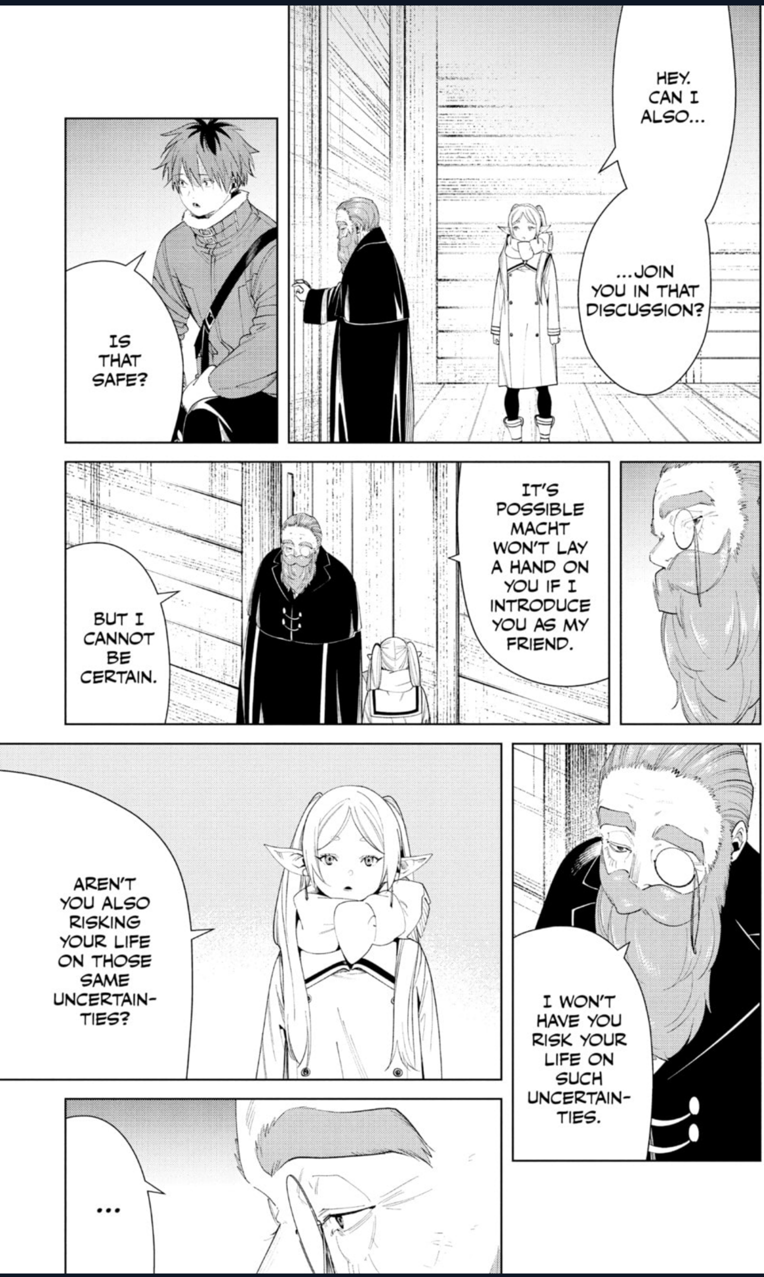

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE LEFT UNHARMED WHEN YOU ENTERED THE GOLDEN LAND...
COULD IT BE THAT MACHT...
...WOULD OBEY YOUR COMMANDS?
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN HAVING DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM?
...
I ASSUME YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH OF AN ADVANTAGE.
OTHERWISE YOU WOULD HAVE SIMPLY SOLVED EVERYTHING BY ORDERING MACHT TO DIE.

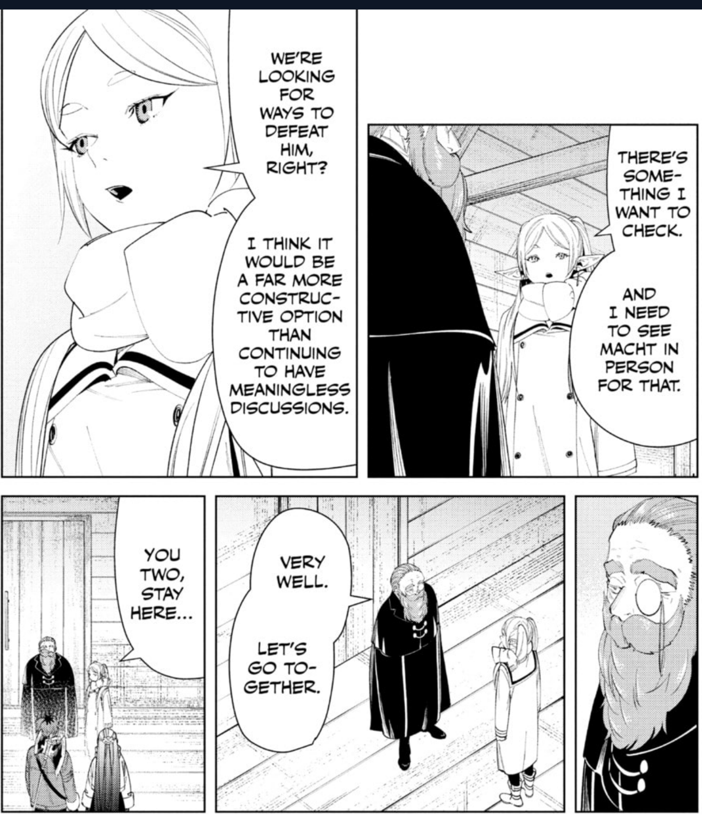

DEMONS ARE ANTISOCIAL CREATURES BY NATURE.
THE CONCEPT OF SERVITUDE MAY BE AMBIGUOUS TO THEM.
CORRECT.
HE DOESN'T HARM ME...
...BUT HE ALMOST NEVER ACCEPTS ANY FORCEFUL COMMANDS.

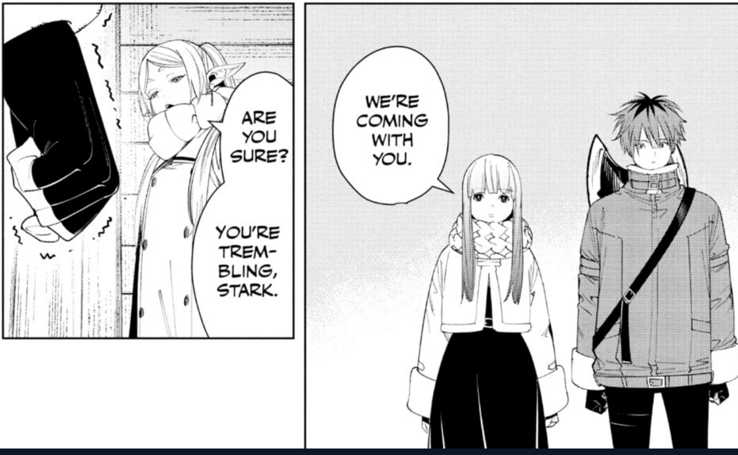

WHY DO YOU KEEP MAKING A FOOL OF YOURSELF BY TALKING WITH HIM IF YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION?
HE COULD KILL YOU AT ANY TIME, DEPENDING ON HOW MACHT INTERPRETS THE CONCEPT OF SERVITUDE.
MY GOAL IS TO RESTORE THE GOLDEN LAND.
OF COURSE, I AIM TO DEFEAT MACHT...
...BUT IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING IF THE GOLDEN LAND DOESN'T REVERT BACK TO NORMAL AFTER I KILL HIM.
THAT'S WHY I SAID I'M JUST CLUTCHING AT STRAWS.
NOW IT MAKES SENSE.
THAT IS TRICKY.
I DON'T GET IT.
WON'T DEFEATING MACHT RESTORE THE GOLDEN LAND TO NORMAL?

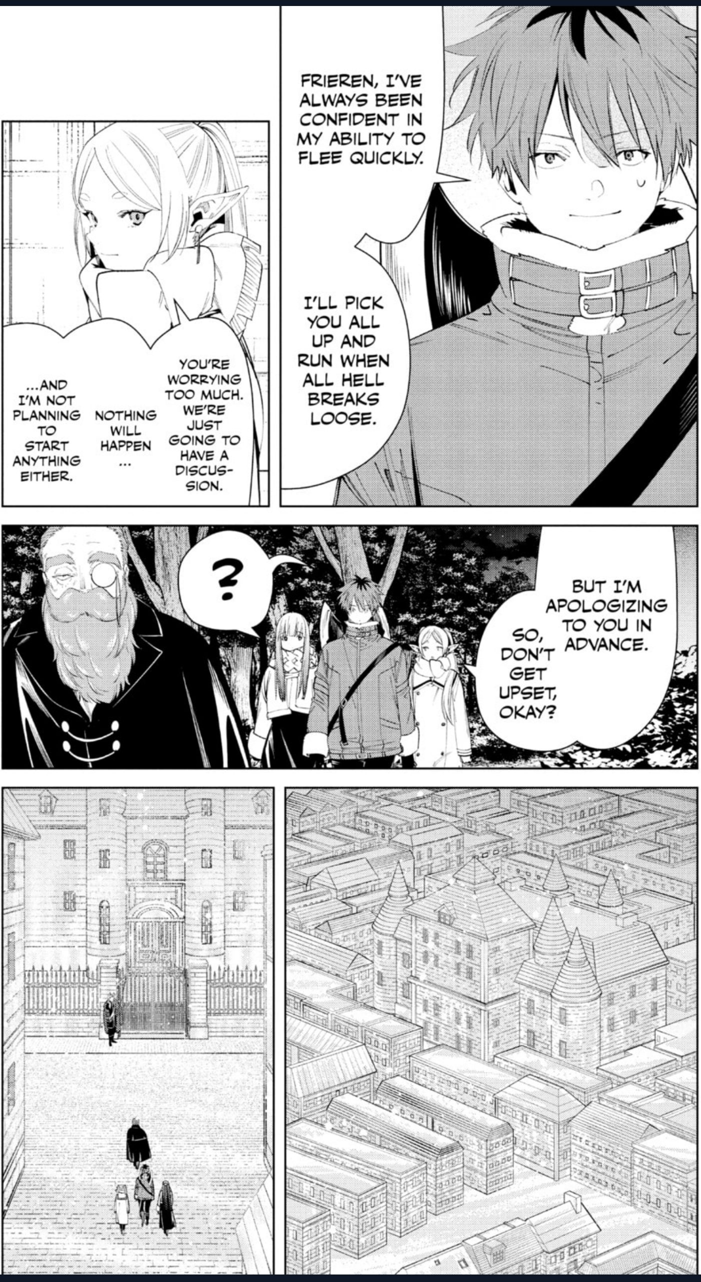

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MAGIC AFTER THE DEATH OF THE CASTER DEPENDS ON THE TRAITS OF THE SPELL.
SOME SPELLS LOSE THEIR EFFECT ONCE THE CASTER DIES...
...BUT THERE ARE ALSO SPELLS THAT DO NOT.
THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE IS BARRIER MAGIC.
SEVERAL OF THE BARRIER SPELLS CAST BY THE GREAT MAGE FLAMME STILL REMAIN IN EFFECT TO THIS DAY.
DIAGOLDZE IS A KIND OF MAGIC THAT REMAINS EVEN AFTER THE DEATH OF THE CASTER, RIGHT?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF THE GOLDEN LAND CAN BE RETURNED TO NORMAL, MACHT IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.
THEREFORE, MACHT WILL NEVER RESTORE THE GOLDEN LAND...
...AND I CAN'T KILL HIM.
AND HE'S AWARE OF THAT TOO.

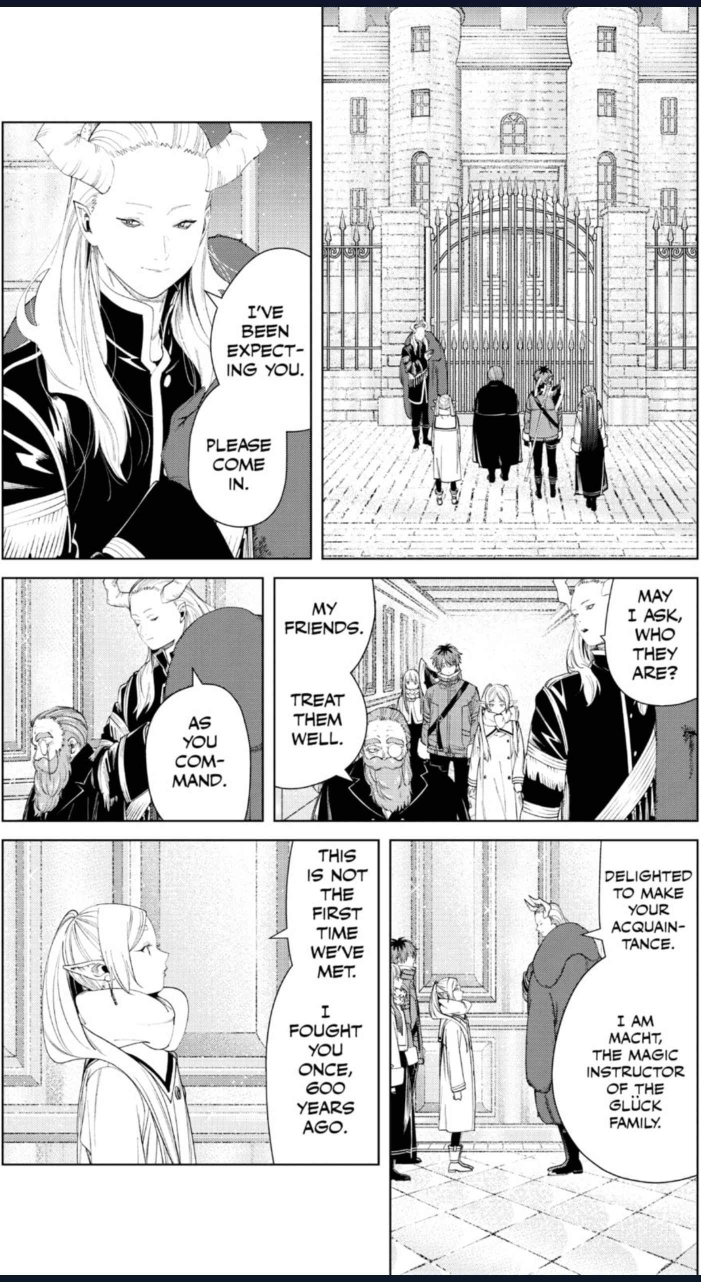

EVEN IF WE FIND A WAY TO KILL HIM...
...THAT FACT DOES NOT CHANGE.
MACHT KNOWS THE VALUE OF HIS OWN LIFE VERY WELL.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A HOSTAGE SITUATION.
THAT'S WHY YOU CONTINUE TALKING WITH HIM EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW IT'S POINTLESS.
BECAUSE OF YOUR IMPOSSIBLE WISH TO RESTORE THE GOLDEN LAND.
YOU REALLY ARE IN THE WORST SITUATION.
YOU CAN'T WIN OR LOSE.
EXACTLY.
SEE YOU LATER.

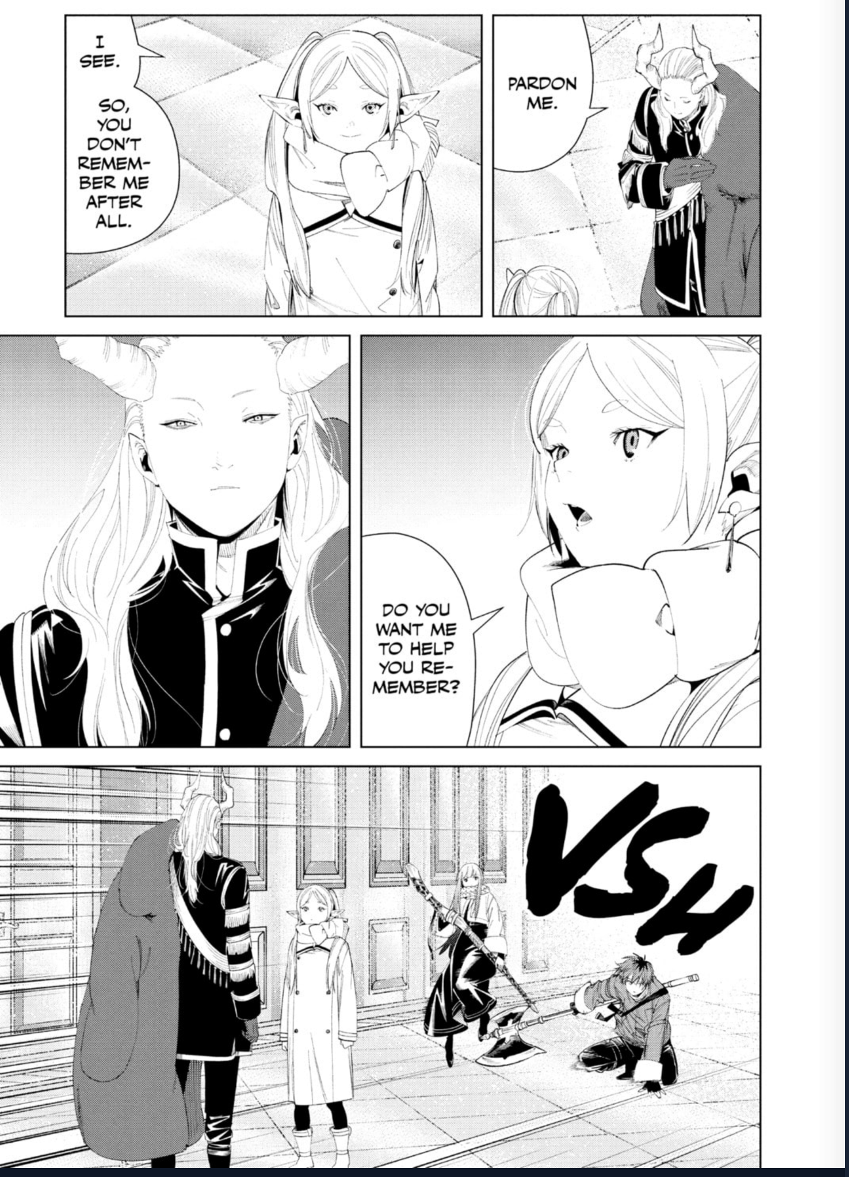

HEY. CAN I ALSO...
...JOIN YOU IN THAT DISCUSSION?
IS THAT SAFE?
IT'S POSSIBLE MACHT WON'T LAY A HAND ON YOU IF I INTRODUCE YOU AS MY FRIEND.
BUT I CANNOT BE CERTAIN.
I WON'T HAVE YOU RISK YOUR LIFE ON SUCH UNCERTAINTIES.
AREN'T YOU ALSO RISKING YOUR LIFE ON THOSE SAME UNCERTAINTIES?
...

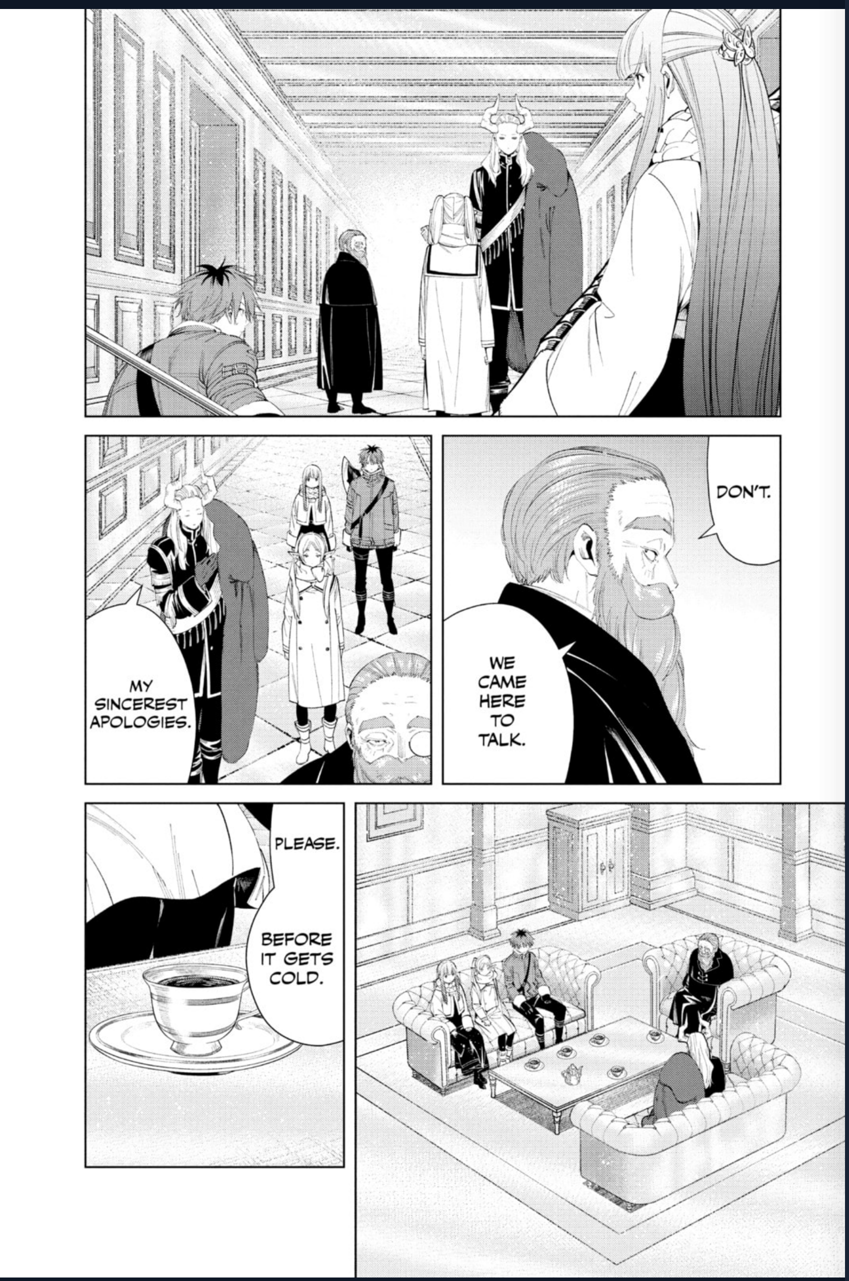

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CHECK.
AND I NEED TO SEE MACHT IN PERSON FOR THAT.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO DEFEAT HIM, RIGHT?
I THINK IT WOULD BE A FAR MORE CONSTRUCTIVE OPTION THAN CONTINUING TO HAVE MEANINGLESS DISCUSSIONS.
VERY WELL.
LET'S GO TOGETHER.
YOU TWO, STAY HERE...

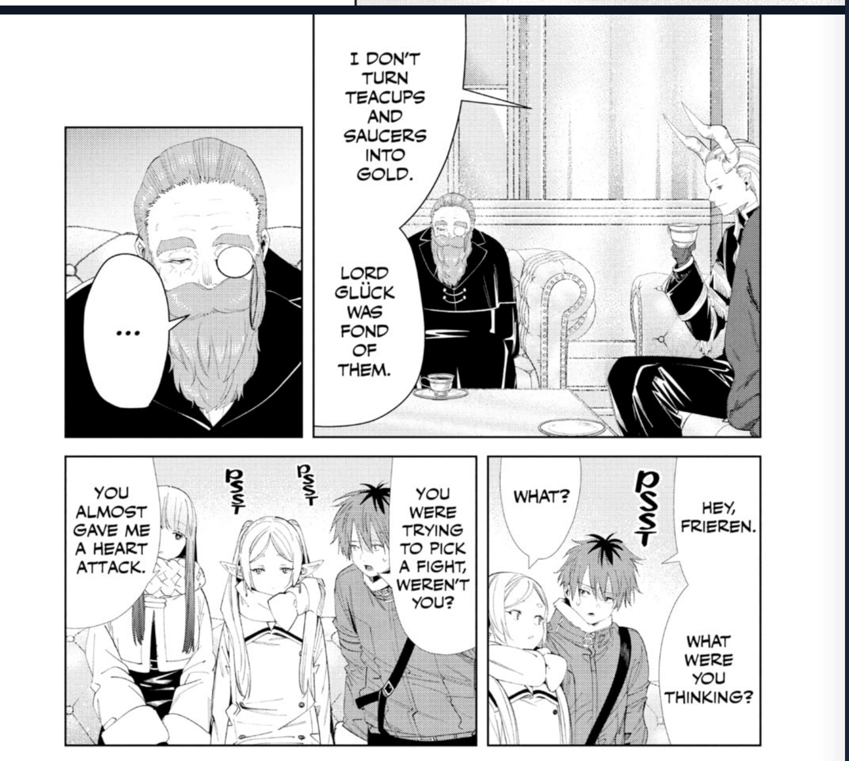

WE'RE COMING WITH YOU.
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU'RE TREMBLING, STARK.

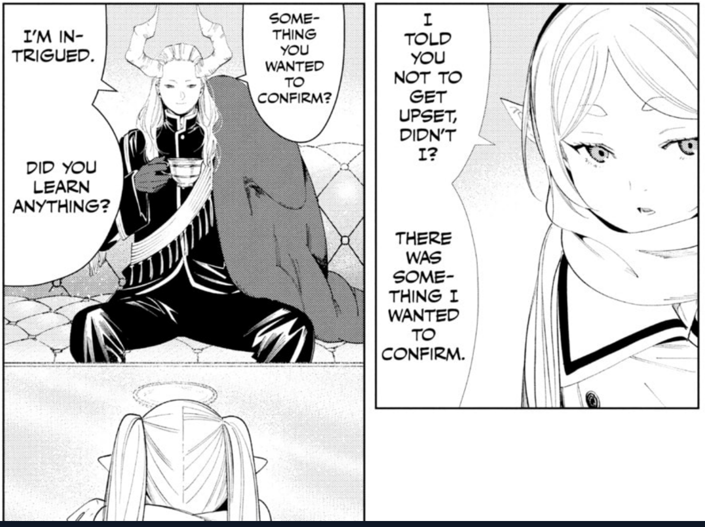

FRIEREN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CONFIDENT IN MY ABILITY TO FLEE QUICKLY.
I'LL PICK YOU ALL UP AND RUN WHEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE.
YOU'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH. WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE A DISCUSSION.
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN ...
...AND I'M NOT PLANNING TO START ANYTHING EITHER.
BUT I'M APOLOGIZING TO YOU IN ADVANCE.
SO, DON'T GET UPSET, OKAY?
?

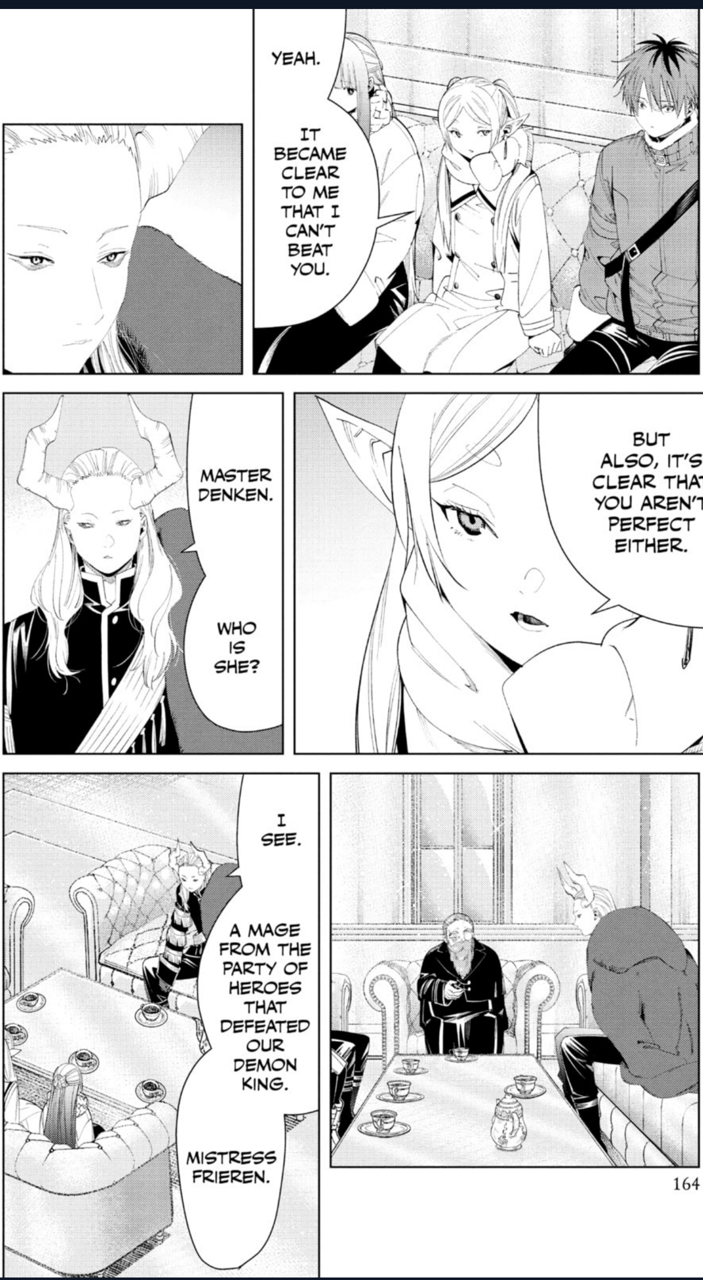

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
PLEASE COME IN.
MAY I ASK, WHO THEY ARE?
MY FRIENDS.
TREAT THEM WELL.
AS YOU COMMAND.
DELIGHTED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
I AM MACHT, THE MAGIC INSTRUCTOR OF THE GLÜCK FAMILY.
THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET.
I FOUGHT YOU ONCE, 600 YEARS AGO.

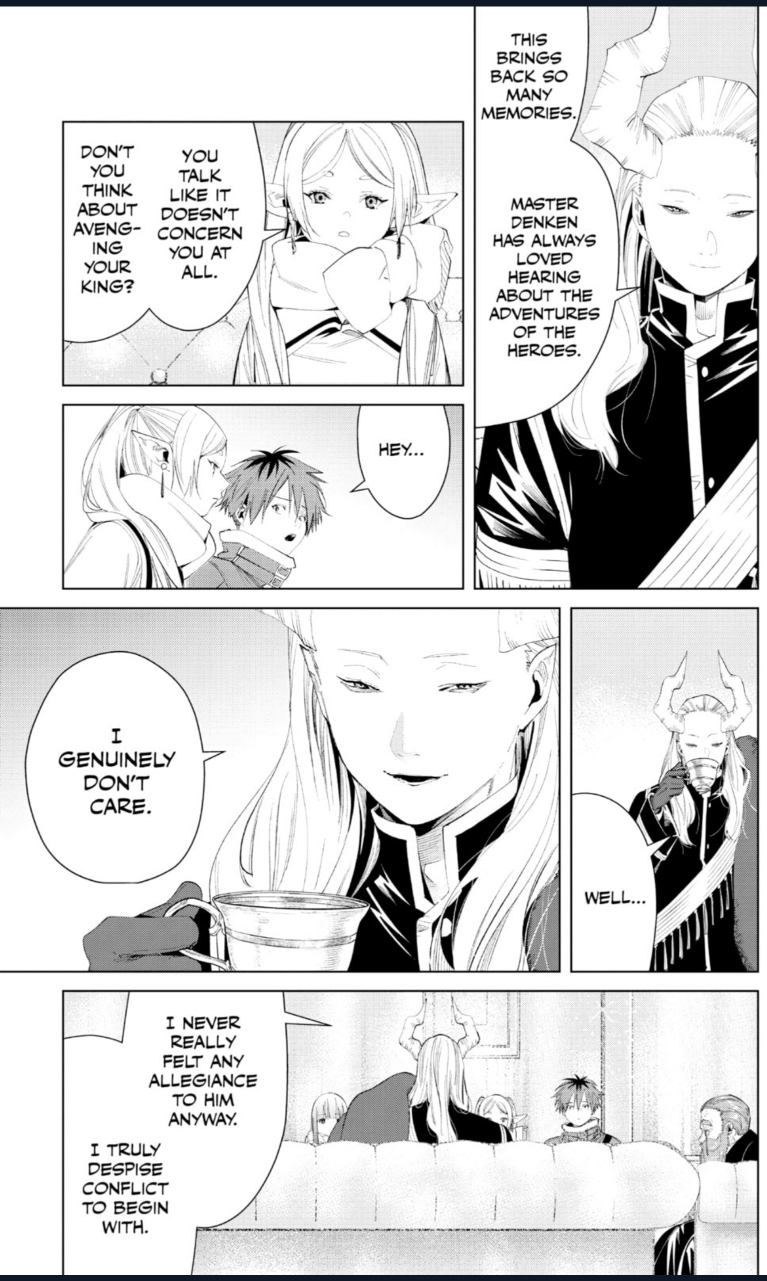

PARDON ME.
I SEE. SO, YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME AFTER ALL.
DO YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU REMEMBER?
VSH

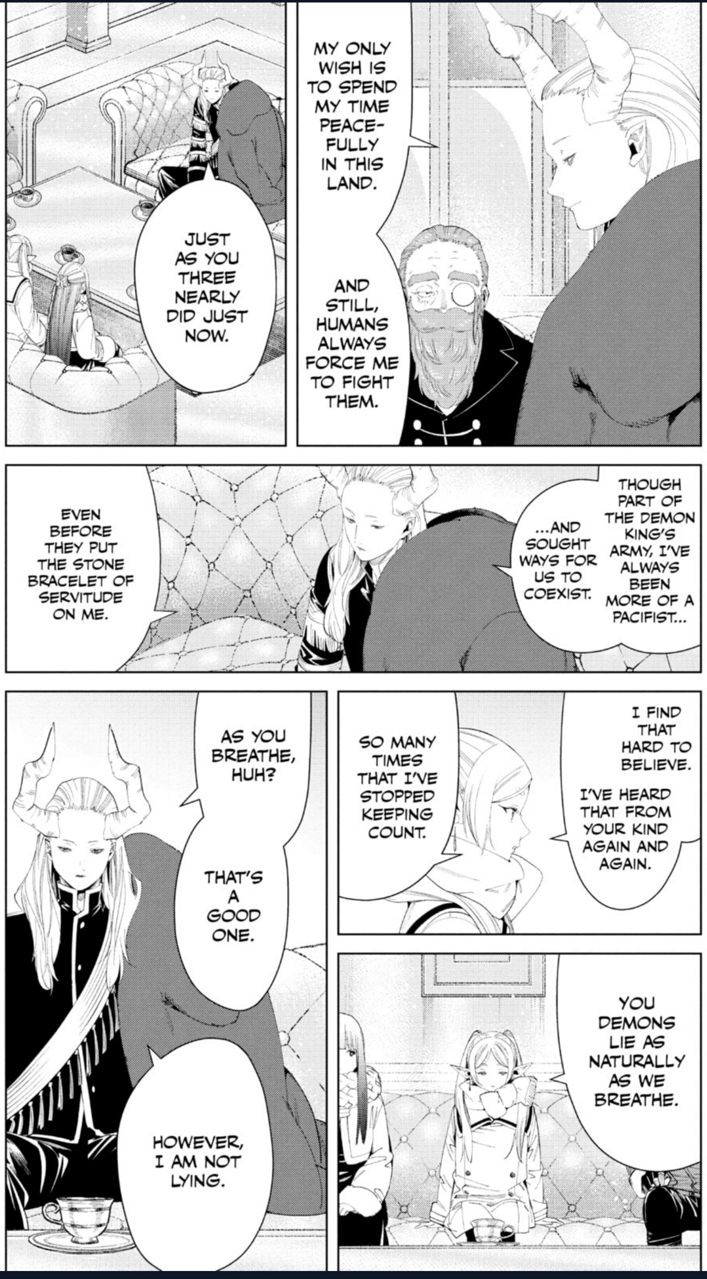

DON'T.
WE CAME HERE TO TALK.
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES.
PLEASE.
BEFORE IT GETS COLD.

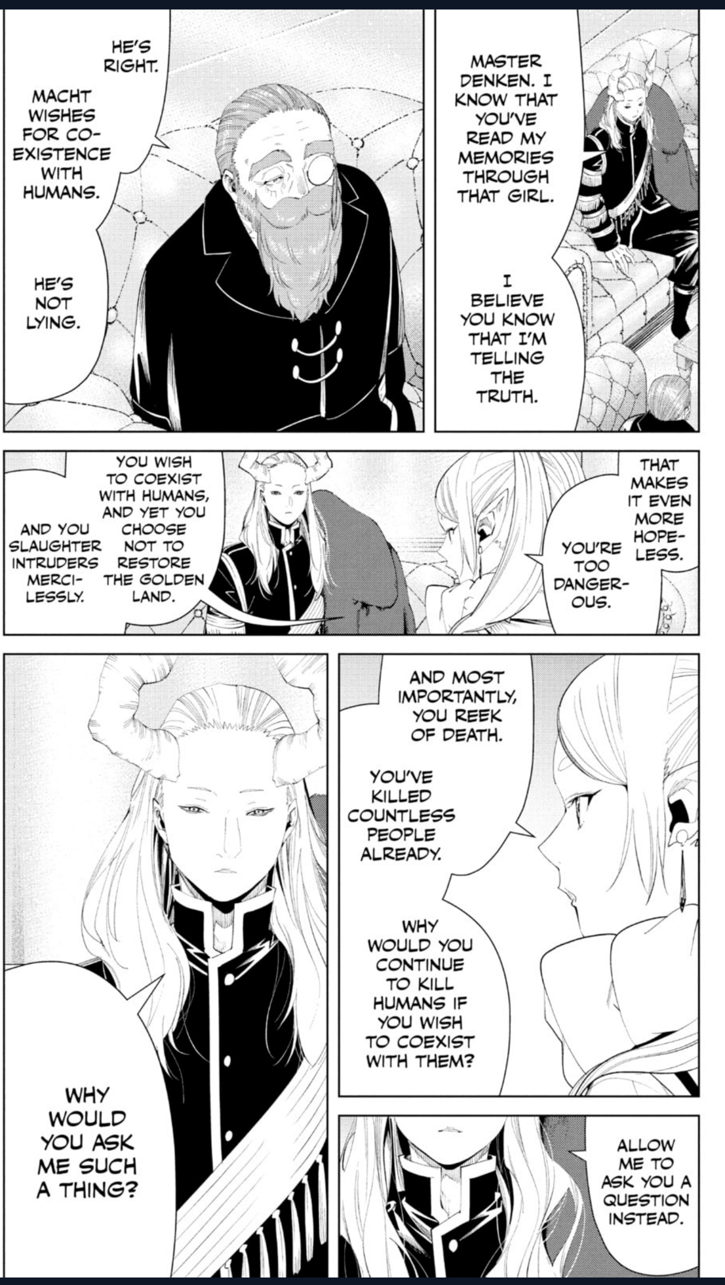

I DON'T TURN TEACUPS AND SAUCERS INTO GOLD.
LORD GLÜCK WAS FOND OF THEM.
...
HEY, FRIEREN.
PSST
WHAT?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
YOU WERE TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT, WEREN'T YOU?
PSST
PSST
YOU ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.

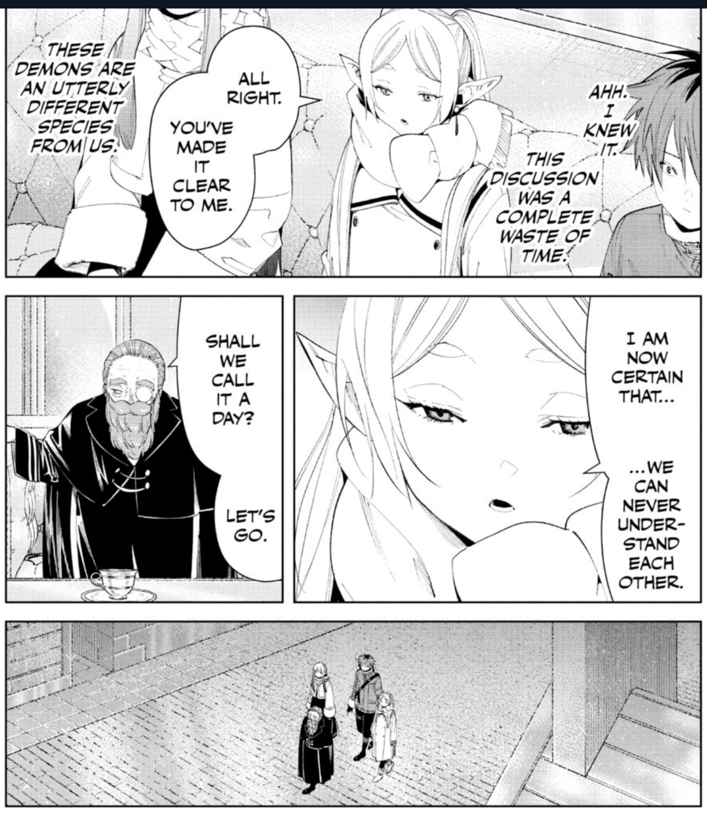

I TOLD YOU NOT TO GET UPSET, DIDN'T I?
THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO CONFIRM.
SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO CONFIRM?
I'M INTRIGUED.
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING?

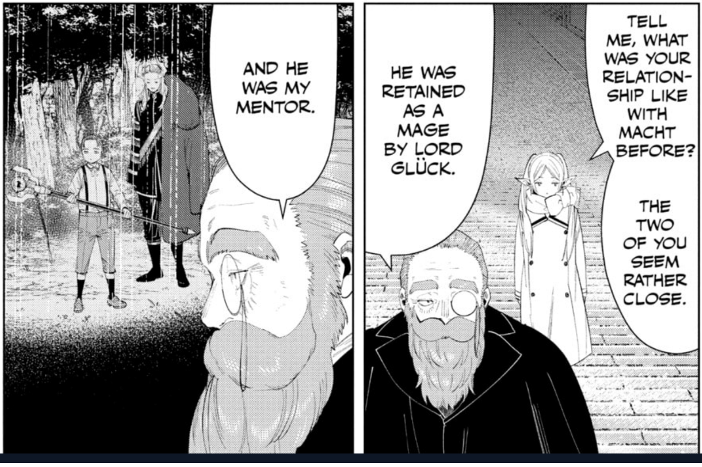

YEAH.
IT BECAME CLEAR TO ME THAT I CAN'T BEAT YOU.
BUT ALSO, IT'S CLEAR THAT YOU AREN'T PERFECT EITHER.
MASTER DENKEN.
WHO IS SHE?
I SEE.
A MAGE FROM THE PARTY OF HEROES THAT DEFEATED OUR DEMON KING.
MISTRESS FRIEREN.

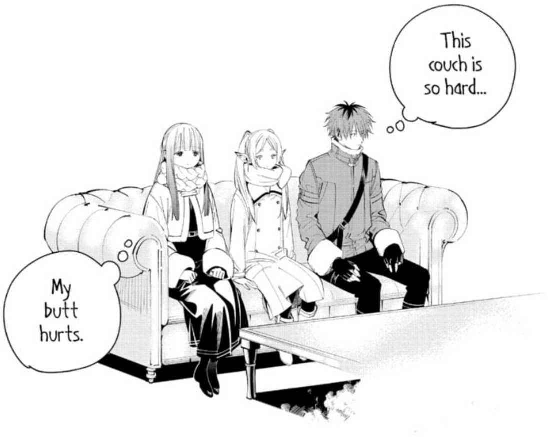

THIS BRINGS BACK SO MANY MEMORIES.
MASTER DENKEN HAS ALWAYS LOVED HEARING ABOUT THE ADVENTURES OF THE HEROES.
YOU TALK LIKE IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU AT ALL.
DON'T YOU THINK ABOUT AVENGING YOUR KING?
HEY...
WELL...
I GENUINELY DON'T CARE.
I NEVER REALLY FELT ANY ALLEGIANCE TO HIM ANYWAY.
I TRULY DESPISE CONFLICT TO BEGIN WITH.


MY ONLY WISH IS TO SPEND MY TIME PEACEFULLY IN THIS LAND.
AND STILL, HUMANS ALWAYS FORCE ME TO FIGHT THEM.
JUST AS YOU THREE NEARLY DID JUST NOW.
THOUGH PART OF THE DEMON KING'S ARMY, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE OF A PACIFIST...
...AND SOUGHT WAYS FOR US TO COEXIST.
EVEN BEFORE THEY PUT THE STONE BRACELET OF SERVITUDE ON ME.
I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE.
I'VE HEARD THAT FROM YOUR KIND AGAIN AND AGAIN.
SO MANY TIMES THAT I'VE STOPPED KEEPING COUNT.
YOU DEMONS LIE AS NATURALLY AS WE BREATHE.
AS YOU BREATHE, HUH?
THAT'S A GOOD ONE.
HOWEVER, I AM NOT LYING.


MASTER DENKEN. I KNOW THAT YOU'VE READ MY MEMORIES THROUGH THAT GIRL.
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW THAT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH.
HE'S RIGHT.
MACHT WISHES FOR CO-EXISTENCE WITH HUMANS.
HE'S NOT LYING.
THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE HOPELESS.
YOU'RE TOO DANGEROUS.
YOU WISH TO COEXIST WITH HUMANS, AND YET YOU CHOOSE NOT TO RESTORE THE GOLDEN LAND.
AND YOU SLAUGHTER INTRUDERS MERCILESSLY.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU REEK OF DEATH.
YOU'VE KILLED COUNTLESS PEOPLE ALREADY.
WHY WOULD YOU CONTINUE TO KILL HUMANS IF YOU WISH TO COEXIST WITH THEM?
ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU A QUESTION INSTEAD.
WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME SUCH A THING?


AHH. I KNEW IT.
THIS DISCUSSION WAS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.
ALL RIGHT. YOU'VE MADE IT CLEAR TO ME.
THESE DEMONS ARE AN UTTERLY DIFFERENT SPECIES FROM US.
I AM NOW CERTAIN THAT...
...WE CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
SHALL WE CALL IT A DAY?
LET'S GO.


TELL ME, WHAT WAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP LIKE WITH MACHT BEFORE?
THE TWO OF YOU SEEM RATHER CLOSE.
HE WAS RETAINED AS A MAGE BY LORD GLÜCK.
AND HE WAS MY MENTOR.


This couch is so hard...
My butt hurts.

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